

GEORGE W. SULLIVAN HOUSE

161 West Main Street

The four bay by two bay, two-section, yellow clapboard built by Samuel Hughes at about the time of the Civil War, looks north onto West Main Street (St. Route 32) about 60' east of that street's intersection with Rush Alley in Westminster. The spacing of the eight bays (two per floor) on the north (principal) facade gives the impression that the house was built in halves, but there is nothing else about the place to encourage such a belief. All windows are simply enframed, are 6/6 paned, and are bordered by black louvered shutters.

Number 161 West Main Street brings to mind thoughts expressed elsewhere about the relationship between singular axes and singular ownership. When Samuel Hughes built the place he apparently wanted something larger than a 3-bay house, but could not afford something 5 bays wide, so not surprisingly, he settled on 4. Nevertheless, the principal of having symmetrical facades on Main Street was still a principal generally accented in Westminster in the 1860's and Hughes seems to have desired to stick to it. He, also naturally, would run into problems creating a symmetrical facade with an even number of bays, and sought to achieve symmetry a few tricks: he grouped two eastern and two western bays close to the other with a broad space between the two groups in the exact center of the building. This space is also the exact width of the space between the edges of the facade and the edges of the first shutter end, creating, an effect, three strong vertical lines and, thus, a central axes.

CARE 447
0704494504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George W. Sullivan House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

161 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dale LeRoy Sell

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o 161 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 471

Folio #: 464

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four bay by two bay, two-section, yellow clapboard built by Samuel Hughes at about the time of the Civil War, looks north onto West Main Street (St. Route 32) about 60' east of that street's intersection with Push Alley in Westminster.

The spacing of the eight bays (two per floor) on the north (principal) facade gives the impression that the house was built in halves, but there is nothing else about the place to encourage such a belief. All windows are simply enframed, are 6/6 paned, and are bordered by black louvered shutters. The door, the second bay from the east, is a late-Victorian, many-paned glass door--it is now tucked behind a modern glass and aluminum storm door. The door is approached by a set of two cement steps which lead to a small porch, also of cement, railed by the simplest of iron railings, and sheltered by a small, wooden, shed-roofed porch. The clapboarding which covers this front section is all painted a bright yellow, the silver-colored tin roof which covers the section is pierced at the east and west ends by small corbel-capped chimneys which are placed a few inches inside the wall at the roof's ridge.

A single, four-light window lights the attic to the west of the main section; four 6/6 windows are placed two per floor in the clapboard addition to the rear. The broad gable to the south has been covered in green asbestos shingles; a shed-roofed addition of yellow clapboard covers the ground story, with a central four-panel door and eastern pair of two-light windows. The addition is roofed in corrugated sheet metal. Two four-light attic windows flank the chimney to the east of the main section which also has one 6/6 window on the north of the main section and two below.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1865	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Samuel Hughes
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 161 West Main Street brings to mind thoughts expressed elsewhere about the relationship between singular axes and singular ownership. When Samuel Hughes built the place he apparently wanted something larger than a 3-bay house, but could not afford something 5 bays wide, so, not surprisingly, he settled on 4. Nevertheless, the principal of having symmetrical facades on Main Street was still a principal generally accented in Westminster in the 1860's and Hughes seems to have desired to stick to it. He, also naturally, would run into problems creating a symmetrical facade with an even number of bays, and sought to achieve symmetry a few tricks: he grouped two eastern and two western bays close to the other with a broad space between the two groups in the exact center of the building. This space is also the exact width of the space between the edges of the facade and the edges of the first shutter end, creating, an effect, three strong vertical lines and, thus, a central axes. Whether or not he needed flanking chimneys (presumably he did), their presence heightens this effect of symmetry. (Certain disadvantages to this grouping of windows arouse, most noticeably, the overlapping of shutters, as a quick examination of the building will indicate.) Otherwise, in form, the building with its two perpendicular L-making sections, its gable roofs, and presumed original rear porch, fits snugly into the local traditions, achieving its builder's desires.

Elijah Wagoner bought the entire block between Rush Alley and Clay Alley from George Wagoner on June 11, 1953 for \$800 (15/157). This block consisted of 5 lots numbered 16-20 and our lot is no. 19 among them. It was sold by Elijah Wagoner to Samuel Hughes on February 26, 1862 for \$200 (28/403); Hughes must have then built the house, as he got \$1700 for the same lot only 6 years later on March 31, 1868, when he sold to George W. Sullivan (35/481). It is Sullivan's house that shows up on the 1877 map and it is Sullivan that is listed in the 1887 City Directory (the outline on the map matches exactly the present outline of the building, except for the rear infill). Sullivan died in 1892, and his children and heirs sold the place on September 15, 1925 to John H. Smelser (146/91). Smelser's widow, Maggie, sold the land to Elmer T. Buffington exactly 18 years later to the day (182/41). Buffington sold the part of the lot containing the building (the lot measuring 26.7' x 198') to Charles D. Wagoner on August 5, 1944 (184/199); Wagoner then sold to Walter F. Hutchins and wife on May 15, 1945 (186/394). Her husband died in the interim, as by way of straw

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the westerly 26' of lot 12 of B. S. Pigmans Addition to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

*8

deeds to and from Charles O. Fisher (405/300, 405/311), Mrs. Hutchins and Mary A. Lambert took joint tenancy on May 3, 1966. The present owner took title on July 6, 1970 (471/464) when Mary Lambert sold him the house, reserving the life estate for herself.

507.



141

507

E-12

CARR 449

161 W. MAIN ST.

WESTMINSTER.

N. FAÇADE. 3/77

C. WICKS